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CATHY A. CATTERSON, CLERK
U.S. COURT OF APPEALS

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS

FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff - Appellee,

v.

ROBERT R. MALDONADO, JR.,

Defendant - Appellant.

No. 04-10559

D.C. No. CR-02-00341-HG

MEMORANDUM^{*}

Appeal from the United States District Court
for the District of Hawaii
Helen Gillmor, District Judge, Presiding

Submitted January 9, 2006^{**}

Before: HUG, O'SCANNLAIN and SILVERMAN, Circuit Judges.

Robert R. Maldonado, Jr. appeals from the 200-month sentence imposed following his guilty plea conviction for conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine and cocaine, in violation of 21 U.S.C.

^{*} This disposition is not appropriate for publication and may not be cited to or by the courts of this circuit except as provided by Ninth Circuit Rule 36-3.

^{**} This panel unanimously finds this case suitable for decision without oral argument. *See* Fed. R. App. P. 34(a)(2).

§§ 841(a)(1) and 846.

Because Maldonado's contention regarding ineffective assistance of counsel is inappropriate for resolution on direct appeal, we decline to review it. *See United States v. Ross*, 206 F.3d 896, 900 (9th Cir. 2000).

We dismiss Maldonado's remaining contentions in light of the valid appeal waiver. *See United States v. Nguyen*, 235 F.3d 1179, 1182 (9th Cir. 2000) (stating that an appeal waiver is valid when it is entered into knowingly and voluntarily); *see also United States v. Cardenas*, 405 F.3d 1046, 1048 (9th Cir. 2005) (holding that the changes in sentencing law imposed by *United States v. Booker*, 543 U.S. 220 (2005), did not render waiver of appeal involuntary and unknowing).

DISMISSED.